

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2005

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phillip Westbrooks, Councilmember of Chandler, Chairman	*Don Peyton, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
Mark Armstrong, MC Superior Court	Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
*John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission	Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
Jerry Boone, Maricopa County Department of Public Health	Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear
*Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center	Ginger Spencer, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
*Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	*Patricia Stevens, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
*Gene D'Adamo, The Arizona Republic	Kris Scharlau for Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Gina Grappone for JoAnn Del-Colle, Governor's Office	Sherri Lauritano for Kerry G. Wangberg, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
*Laura Guild, DES	Dale Wiebusch, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House	Rick Ybarra, Value Options
Scott Connelly for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise	
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix, Public Affairs Bureau, Vice Chair	<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>
Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging	Linda Dickerson, DPS
*Wallace Kemp, Phoenix Police Department	Teresa Franquiz, MAG
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter	DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
*Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale	Anna Maria Leff Giffin, DES/DCYF
Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women	Chris Groniwer, AZCADV
JoEllen Lynn, American Express	Chuck LeBlanc, DPS
*Carolyn McBurney, Envision Project Management	Bill Hart, Morrison ASU
Marna McClendon, Office of the Attorney General	Patrice Kraus, City of Chandler
Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services	Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale
*Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear	Nichole Nosecchi, Survivors United Against DV
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation	Beth Pfile, JFCS
	Amy St. Peter, MAG
	Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
	Richard Toon, Morrison ASU
	Tracey Wilkinson, Scottsdale Police

+ Those attending by video/audio conference

* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chairman Westbrook called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. He welcomed everyone and thanked the MAG staff for all of their work on behalf of the Council during his tenure as Chair. Chairman Westbrook introduced Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale and thanked her for agreeing to step in as the new Chair of the Council. He noted that Mayor Manross would be a great asset to the Council. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the November 1, 2005 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve the November 1, 2005 meeting minutes. Sherri Lauritano, City of Phoenix Law Department, commented that the minutes should reflect that she had attended the last meeting for Kerry Wangberg. Judge Mark Armstrong moved to approve with the change, and Connie Phillips seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with the requested change.

4. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Chairman Westbrook introduced Gina Grappone, Governor's Office, Division for Women. Ms. Grappone provided an update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. She stated that JoAnn Del-Colle, the Division Director, could not be here because she was in Tucson. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide the update. She began by informing members of the STOP grant program. STOP funds originate from the federal Department of Justice through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Evelyn Buckner at the Governor's Office Division administers the STOP grants in Arizona. There are currently 25 STOP funded programs in Arizona. Twenty-one of the programs are renewals this year, and four are new programs. One of the new projects was submitted by the City of Phoenix to develop a computer-based Interactive Distance Learning program about DV that would be available to communities around the state. The second new project was submitted by Empact. That organization is partnering with the Chandler Fire Department to provide a master level therapist to deliver comprehensive services to sexual assault victims. The third project was submitted by Chrysalis Shelter to collaborate with Maricopa County Adult Probation and the Superior Court to provide outreach, advocacy, crisis intervention, service referral and follow-up with victims of DV whose offenders are on probation. Maricopa Medical Foundation also submitted a successful proposal to do healthcare screening and advocacy in emergency rooms. Advocates will be available system-wide for victims throughout the medical institution.

Ms. Grappone informed members of an upcoming satellite broadcast for judges and court personnel on March 23 titled "Domestic Violence: Its Effects on the Courts." It will include a discussion of the fatality review teams and a presentation about the

Morrison Institute Law Enforcement survey. Thirty-one sites across the state will be participating. For information, contact Evelyn Buckner with the Governor's Office.

The Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence against Women met for the first time this year in January. They are now operating with a Leadership Team Model to allow for commissioner participation and additional community input. Members of the Commission have been divided into teams. The teams will work to move the State Plan ahead in the coming year. Teams include: prevention, children, criminal justice and law enforcement, workplace, sexual/domestic violence victim services, health, and diversity issues.

She also asked Council members to save the date for the Governor's Sexual Assault Conference on March 30 and 31 at the Black Canyon Conference Center. The keynote speech will address spousal rape and will be delivered by a researcher from Pennsylvania. She asked members to contact her with any questions.

5. Legislative Update

Chairman Westbrook introduced Dale Wiebusch, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who provided an update on domestic violence related items currently before the Arizona State Legislature. Mr. Wiebusch noted that in the Governor's proposed budget, there was \$2.8 million for additional DV shelter beds and a four-year phase in plan. Senator Aboud in particular was very supportive and may be a champion on this issue in the future. State agencies are now making budget presentations to appropriations committees. He encouraged anyone with access to state leaders to vocally support the initiatives in the DV arena. This is especially crucial now because it is an election year.

He reported on House Bill 2124, which is an eviction protection bill, which is very similar to legislation proposed last year. If passed, it would prevent evictions of DV victims based on 911 calls placed by neighbors or someone else. The proposed legislation passed through the House easily last year, but it had a late start. He felt that the bills chances of passage are good because there is no fiscal note associated with it.

Senate Bill 1164 would make strangulation and suffocation an aggravated assault. They are usually treated as class two and three misdemeanors. Supporters want to make these crimes a class four felony. If the victim is under the age of 15, it would be made a class three felony. Senator Huppenthal has offered a compromise to make this type of assault on an adult a class five felony. This bill is scheduled to be heard Monday at 1:30 p.m. by the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 1147 deals with interference with emergency assistance calls. The current statute on this issue only applies to party lines, and thus, is outdated. If the legislation passes, it would likely apply to DV calls only.

Senate Bill 1342 concerns the service of orders of protection across jurisdictions. One proposed version of the bill was killed yesterday. The Arizona Judicial Council was promoting this piece of legislation. It stated that a judge may order any law enforcement agency in which a defendant was found to serve an order. It is problematic because of cross-jurisdictional problems. Most likely, this type of legislation will not be passed this year. Part of the issue is that supporters do not have data. For example, of all orders received, how many tend to be outside the jurisdiction and how many were served.

There is also a legal assistance fund bill that would increase monies available for anybody who qualified economically. There would likely not be as many strings attached as funding from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). For example, recipients would not necessarily have to have children to qualify. In his opinion, the odds are not good on getting this bill getting passed.

Senate Bill 1097 if passed would have significantly weakened the order of protection statute. If a defendant violated an order, there would be no charge for that. It would have also eliminated ex-parte hearings, so all hearings would require the presence of both the plaintiff and defendant in the same room. This bill was assigned to Senator Karen Johnson's Family Services Committee.

Senate Bill 1145 states that if someone breaks in to your home or car, you can shoot them to protect yourself and your property. However, DV victims would not qualify for coverage under this statute if they have not had an order of protection served on the intruder yet. Mr. Weibusch stated that the law should not exclude DV victims from coverage just because their orders have not been served yet.

Ms. Ginger Spencer asked if the proposed legal assistance fund would provide for assistance in securing representation in court. Mr. Weibusch replied that it would and that legal assistance is still one of the most important needs of DV victims.

Commander Kim Humphrey noted that although he is not personally for or against the cross-jurisdictional orders of protection bill, it is unfortunate that the courts seemed pitted against the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police (ACOP), who came out against it. He noted that they have valid reasons for why they are taking that position, and their reasons are more practical than philosophical. He suggested there are ways of working on together on this issue and that he knows the Chiefs of Police are willing to work on it. He said he would be happy to make contact with the group to come up with a way for how to do this. Mr. Weibusch agreed and said that he had just attended an ACOP meeting on Friday and offered to work on this issue with them. He added that anecdotally, the City of Mesa often is accused of not serving orders within their jurisdiction that are issued elsewhere. However, the data shows that they do in fact serve most orders in their jurisdiction. Commander Humphrey told the Council that this issue may appear in the newspaper soon and it is likely to show the differences between the courts and ACOP in a negative light. He said this would be unfortunate because the groups do want to work together on this issue.

Chairman Westbrook thanked Commander Humphrey and Mr. Weibusch for their information.

6. Presentation on Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement Attitudes in Arizona

Chairman Westbrook introduced Bill Hart and Dr. Richard Toon from the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU, who provided a presentation on the report “Layers of Meaning”.

Dr. Toon noted that they had presented to the Council last summer to talk about the plans for the report and they are here now to talk about the results. The study was published about a month ago and was featured in the View Points section in the Arizona Republic. He noted that several people here today had contributed to the project and he thanked them for their support. The report has been very popular and well read; in the first two weeks after it was posted online, it was downloaded 13,000 times. This is the highest number of downloads of any report Morrison has ever done. They are still getting around 500 downloads a day. He said the public response has been phenomenal.

Dr. Toon stressed the breadth of the study and that they received a great deal of rich data. First, they found that DV is an extremely common call for service to local police departments. This information was drawn from Department of Public Safety data. He noted the concentration in urban areas. About 70 percent of DV arrests are in the Greater Phoenix area and Tucson.

The average number of DV calls received last year by law enforcement officers was reported to be 116. Because this number did not match the data from DPS, Dr. Toon noted that officers are either reporting DV calls than they are actually doing, or there is an underreporting of calls to DPS. He indicated that both may be true. Mayor Manross asked if this may have had anything to do with differing definitions of DV. Dr. Toon said that they had asked officers participating in the study to self-define DV and just to report how many calls they thought they went to in the last 12 months. He noted that he also believes that DV calls are not reported consistently throughout the state. Ultimately, researchers do not know truly how many DV calls police statewide received. Whatever the true number is, it is quite large. Certainly it is the number one violence call everywhere in the state.

Officers reported that DV is connected to many other types of crime. They also felt that at best, they were making people safe only for one night. Across the board, they were skeptical about the longer-term impact of their role. The number one value and attitude is that they are sympathetic to the plight of DV victims, but are unsympathetic to the consequences. He noted that this could be a huge training issue.

Officers also noted that they felt that discretion had moved from the police officer to the prosecutor. This reflects the mandatory arrest policy in Arizona.

In addition to analyzing data from DPS, they also collected surveys, interviews, and written comments from officers. There are more than 1000 pages of transcribed interviews that were coded and analyzed, using the same framework in the survey to bring the comments and survey data together.

Mr. Hart explained that there was a two-page questionnaire with 37 questions. It was returned by 777 officers. There were also 600 written comments. There were 31 in-depth hour-long one-on-one interviews. The officers did want to talk about the issue and they did recognize DV as an important topic for law enforcement around the state.

They recognized that DV is a public issue, with sentiment among Maricopa County officers maybe slightly more traditional. Commander Humphrey stressed that in Maricopa, one out of four officers would not agree that DV is a criminal issue. He found that troubling.

Seventy-two percent of officers in Maricopa think that DV offenders should be arrested even when the victims do not want it.

Nationally, research remains vague as to whether arrest actually decreases future incidents. Fifty-eight percent of respondents in Maricopa agreed that arresting someone at a DV call seldom helps reduce future DV incidents. Essentially, officers are split in the middle as to if they think the mandatory arrest policy is the best policy.

A key finding is that there is extreme frustration among police in responding to DV calls. Eighty-seven percent said that a major problem with DV is that there are so many repeat calls. Twenty-eight percent of officers in Maricopa said that there should be a limit on how many times they respond to DV calls from the same victim at the same address. Seventy-five percent of officers said that too many calls are for only verbal family arguments. Fifty-seven percent in Maricopa County said that police should arrest in DV cases only when there is clear evidence of injury. Commander Humphrey pointed out that in strangulation cases, there would not be any evidence of injury, as bruising takes a significant amount of time to appear. Forty-four percent of officers in Maricopa County said that DV victims are often as responsible for the incident as the person arrested.

Another critical finding is that officers feel too few cases are prosecuted. They are frustrated by repeat victims who do not leave, and they feel prosecutors drop too many cases. A common comment was, "We can't do it alone." DV was by far the most common call for the Phoenix Police Department. Officers feel they are caught between unwilling victims and unwilling prosecutors.

Briefly, Dr. Toon and Mr. Hart discussed their suggestions on what to do to improve the situation. They noted that there is no effective tracking system to know exactly what happens with specific DV cases. They feel it would be useful to map out key decision points in Arizona's response to DV – from 911 calls to disposition. They

also feel it necessary to examine the role of prosecutorial discretion in DV cases. They would support more and deeper DV training for officers, especially as it pertains to “victimology.” They also noted the need to continue to strengthen overall community efforts to prevent domestic violence.

Commander Humphrey thanked them both for their presentation and for doing this study. He noted it has been needed for a long time and it shows the need for training on this and other issues. He stressed that the next phase would be to look at the role of prosecution and the courts.

Ms. Kris Scharlau, Care 7, felt that the study results were fascinating and depressing, but it validates the work Care 7 does as a crisis response team to help alleviate the officers’ frustration on scene. If they can intervene for officers and deal with clients’ long-term needs, they are happy to do this and at the same time, make a difference for officers in her city. Care 7 does training on psychology of victims for the officers and she attends officer briefings. Mr. Hart noted that one suggestion from the officers was to have some type of social service available at the scene to handle victims’ needs.

Dr. Fred Scott, City of Goodyear, also thanked Mr. Hart and Dr. Toon. As a recently retired emergency physician after working 40 years in Maricopa County, he understands the frustration the officers feel with the repeat calls. He firmly supports having crisis teams available and equipped with psychologists and to do follow-up with the victims. Most do not understand where they can go for help and do not understand their rights.

Dr. Toon noted that those officers with more experience on the job generally have more enlightened views about DV and DV victims. Younger, newer officers have less enlightened views. Mr. Hart informed members that before the study was complete, some had said that “old guard” officers would be retiring soon and younger officers would likely have better attitudes. However, the results of the study found the opposite to be true.

Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services, asked if was any difference in the attitudes among members of DV specific teams. Mr. Hart said that for this study, they did not gather that type of data, so he could not answer at this point. However, they would like to continue the study to answer that very question. In interviews, DV dedicated officers did seem to be more informed and sympathetic in general, but not all of them were.

Sherri Lauritano, Phoenix Prosecutor’s Office, said that the study was very eye opening and she would be very interested if it continued on to prosecution. She said that many other studies had emphasized initial victim safety, this brought out that there is a long process afterward and that is where the frustration begins. She felt that there should be some way to help victims during the two to three years of going through the court system to get a conviction. She asked if the data could be broken out by municipality. Dr. Toon said that at the moment, it is only divided by county,

but now they plan to go back and break it down further. He explained that in the end, this study raised more questions for researchers to answer.

Commander Humphrey asked members to communicate with the Morrison Institute if there is any support available to continue the research and collect the data needed.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Victim Services: Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center, and Amy St. Peter, MAG, provided the Victim Services Subcommittee update. Ms. Peter directed members to the DV shelter capacity paper on table outside the room. The press release on the report went out today. The report shows how many more DV beds are needed in the MAG Region to meet current demand. She thanked the local DV shelters and ASU's Partnership for Community Development for their assistance and participation. They did two surveys, one phone survey and one written survey with current residents, to gather the data needed. Ms. Phillips encouraged everyone to get this report out to as many people as possible. It is very important because for years advocates have been hearing that no one knows if there are real numbers to demonstrate the actual need. Now there is a credible source that shows we do need twice as many beds in Maricopa County. Already they have seen the report have an impact in the Governor's budget proposal for this fiscal year. Ms. St. Peter told members that if they know of any group that would like to hear a presentation on the report, staff and subcommittee members would be happy to go out.

The next project for the subcommittee will be to develop an economic case statement. This will determine the economic impact of DV on cities and towns. They are now working to design a survey to send out to the cities to get the data necessary to do this analysis. Everyone recognizes that DV has a human cost, but it will be helpful to also demonstrate the financial cost. The hope is that this type of analysis will enable the Council to reach a broader audience.

Ms. JoEllen Lynn, American Express, asked if it would be possible to show employers the financial impact upon their businesses. Ms. St. Peter said that with the first phase of the study, they are only focusing on emergency services and the cost to municipalities; however, a subsequent phase may include employers and medical costs as well.

Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, asked if the survey report is available electronically. Ms. St. Peter said that it is available in PDF and that staff can resend to the Council.

Chairman Westbrook thanked the subcommittee for their work on this excellent report. He agreed with Ms. Phillips in that the next step would be to get the information out and in front of as many people as possible. He encouraged everyone to help in this. He called for a motion to approve the DV shelter report. Ms. Spencer so moved, with a second by Mr. Weibusch. The report was unanimously approved.

Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV): Ms. Lynn provided a status report on EADV. She noted that the subcommittee has always been operated by MAG under the prevue of the DV Council. Recently, subcommittee members voted to allow EADV to move to the Arizona Foundation for Women because they will be taking over responsibility for the Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence. They also operate the Men's Anti-Violence Network (MAN), so members are confident that the fit will be a good one.

She noted that EADV has also recently had a change in chairs. Craig Mills from APS will be stepping down as her co-chair after two years, and Loren Kirkeide from SRP will be taking over that position. EADV will be meeting soon to do some additional strategic planning. They will continue to belong to the Regional DV Council and will provide periodic reports on the group's progress.

She announced that the 2006 Walk to End Domestic Violence will be on Saturday April 22. She asked everyone to please come out and participate as it is a good way to support our shelters. For further information about the Walk, she asked members to feel free to contact her, Teresa or Amy at MAG.

Chairman Westbrook thanked Ms. Lynn for all her efforts and the update. He also asked that she thank Mr. Mills on behalf of the Council. He noted that EADV continues to do wonderful things in our community with employers.

Ms. Klahr also encouraged people to sign up for the Walk and to encourage people to join teams. The goal for this year is to have 2200-5000 walkers. The Walk committee is now working to bring in additional sponsors. She asked if any members know of any potential sponsors, to please let Ms. Lynn or AFW know about them.

Ad Hoc Membership Subcommittee: Chairman Westbrook asked that due to time constraints, this update would be tabled until the next meeting

8. Strategic Planning Outcomes

Chairman Westbrook asked Teresa Franquiz, MAG, to provide the members with a brief reminder and summary of the strategic planning outcomes from the last meeting. She thanked the Chair and informed members that she would also be providing an update on where we stand with each of the four priorities identified, and progress made to date.

She summarized the four strategic planning goals, progress to date, and recommendations from staff, as follows:

1. Support increased shelter capacity by widely distributing and publicizing the Victim Service's shelter capacity paper, and utilizing the MAG process to make the finding available to local elected officials.
 - The MAG Regional Council officially approved the paper on January 25. A press release was issued today, and members

received a copy of the release at the door. This was provided to the press in English and in Spanish.

- Staff plans to bring the report before the MAG Regional Council again in order to provide a presentation on the findings in more detail. The paper was originally approved by consent.
- Staff also hopes to bring the presentation to the next Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting in April.
- She asked for the Council's help in spreading the word more widely. MAG staff and members of the subcommittee would be happy to provide presentations as requested. If members know of any groups that would like to hear a presentation on the findings, please contact her at MAG.
- Staff's recommendation is to continue doing what they are currently doing, which is to take this information to as many groups as possible.

2. Research project on the legal system to include two phases: assessment of legal service needs among domestic violence survivors, as well as a larger survey of processes and attitudes of court officials to include prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and others as appropriate.

- Ms. Franquiz explained that staff is approaching the two pieces a little differently. They are aware that the Morrison Institute is very interested in continuing with their study of law enforcement. They are currently working to secure additional funding to be able to continue with a study of the courts and prosecution. Staff has let them know that they will do everything possible to support them in their effort to secure additional funding.
- The legal services needs assessment is a project that staff feels would potentially fit nicely into the purview of the Victim Services Subcommittee. Some members of the subcommittee are really excited about taking this on, and would welcome the opportunity to work on it, once they have completed their current projects. It is anticipated that this piece would be something the subcommittee would look at in the second half of this year.
- Staff's recommendation is to support the Morrison Institute as they work to secure the additional funding needed to expand upon their earlier study. Additionally, staff recommends that the Victim Service Subcommittee take on doing the legal services needs assessment later this year.

3. Education and early prevention programs for youth, to include collaborations with other groups that are already working on this issue.

- The MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee's Youth Policy Subcommittee is also very interested in looking into this kind of project.

- The City of Mesa has already been working on a prevention curriculum for junior high school students, particularly targeting boys.
 - There are lots of other, more broadly conceived anti-violence school-based programs out there that could also be applicable.
 - Staff's recommendation is that members of this Council who are interested in getting involved with this initiative consider attending the next Youth Policy Subcommittee meeting so that these two groups can start collaborating. The effort can then grow from there by bringing in additional stakeholders.
 - The meeting is on Wednesday February 22 from 11:00am – 12:00pm here at MAG in the Palo Verde room. If any members would like to attend, please Ms. Franquiz to receive an agenda.
4. It was recommended that the Council and staff explore ways to make the original 41 initiatives from the Regional Domestic Violence Plan more present in the day-to-day, month to month, operations of the Council. The goal would be to keep the original plan a little closer at hand so that members and staff can more clearly track progress, mark successes, and recognize areas that may be in need of attention.
- Staff's recommendation is form a time-limited work group that would meet only once or twice to think through some suggestions for how to bring the 41 initiatives back into the forefront. Staff would be looking for three to five people to help develop some strategies to that end.

Chairman Westbrook thanked Ms. Franquiz for the summary and updates. He called for a motion to approve the recommendations of staff. Mr. Weibusch moved to approve the recommendations of staff as stated. Dr. Fred Scott seconded the motion. The recommendations of staff on how to proceed with each of the goals were approved unanimously.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm. Chairman Westbrook thanked everyone for their participation.

The next Regional DV Council meeting will be on Thursday, April 6 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.